



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JAN 24 2013

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Mr. John Madden
Superintendent
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement, Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains, General Management Plan, Implementation, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Dane County, Wisconsin – CEQ #20120398

Dear Mr. Madden:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the National Park Service's (NPS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above-mentioned project. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA assigned a rating of "Environmental Concerns – Adequate Information (EC-1)" to the Draft EIS in our April 16, 2012 letter. The Draft EIS analyzed impacts associated with four action alternatives. The Final EIS indicates that a modified Alternative 5 was selected for implementation.

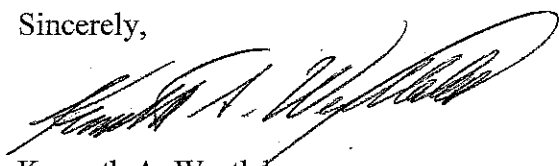
The NPS has satisfactorily addressed the following issues identified in our DEIS letter. These include: 1) the identification of the responsible party planning and advocating a bike path along U.S. Highway 14; 2) inclusion of measures to minimize adverse wetland impacts; and 3) the inclusion of measures to minimize air quality impacts.

By implementing NPS standards and guidelines outlined throughout the Final EIS, the proposed action is expected to have a minor impact on the water quality; nevertheless, we hope the NPS will re-consider the use of permeable pavers, where feasible, to further minimize water quality impacts.

Several issues identified in our letter responding to the DEIS are more editorial in nature. The National Park service satisfactorily addressed the following: 1) the inclusion of a map to illustrate current land ownership and management; and 2) the inclusion of the text describing the nature of areas "L" and "h" in Figure 12. However, the legend corresponding to Figure 12 could have been revised to include notation defining areas "L" and "h" in that figure for an enhanced discussion of these deposit types.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or kowal.kathleen@epa.gov or Robert O'Brien at (312) 886-3283 or obrien.robert@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Nicholas Chevance, Midwest Regional Environmental Coordinator, National Park Service